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A WISE PHYSICIAN, SKILL'D OUR WOUNDS TO HEAL,
IS MORE THAN ARMIES TO THE PUBLIC WEAL.—*Pope's Homer.*

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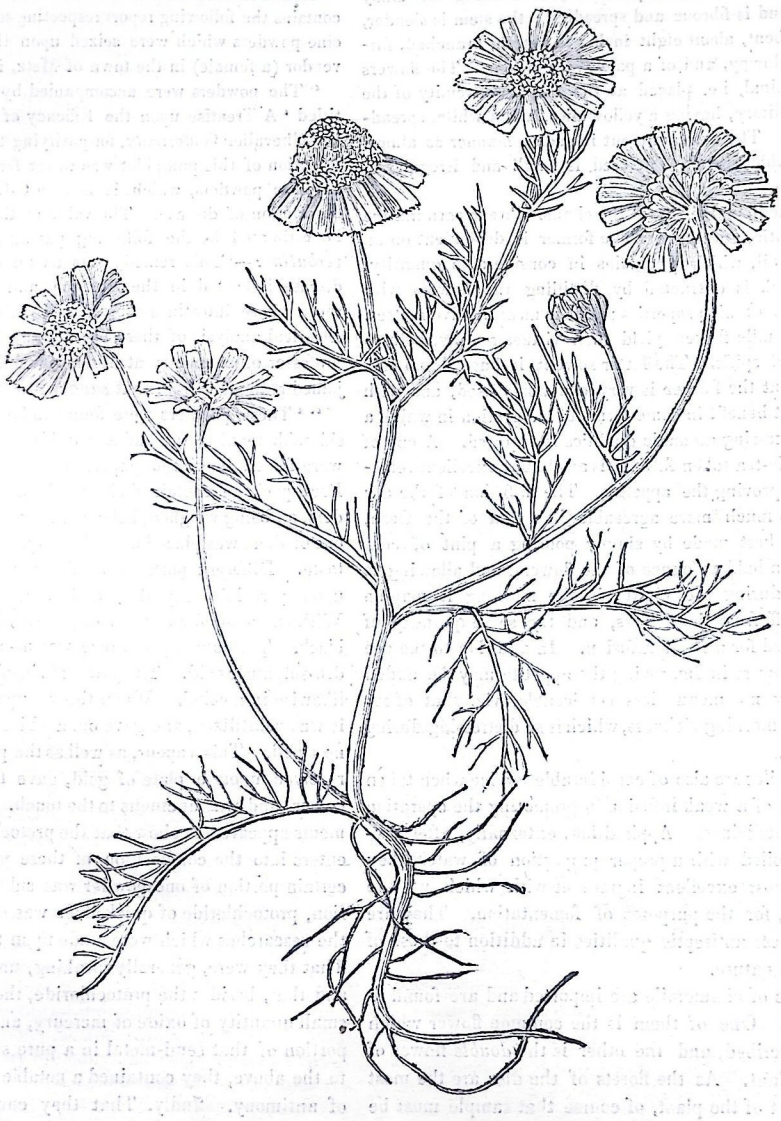

THE ANTHEMIS NOBILIS; OR, COMMON CHAMOMILE.

CLASS, SYNGENESIA. ORDER, POYGAMIA. NATURAL ORDER, COMPOSITÆ.

The Common Chamomile is cultivated in many parts of our own country, and also very generally on the continent, for medicinal purposes. It is indigenous in this country, and is found growing wild in dry pasture lands, and very frequently in gardens. It flowers in July and August, and if the weather is warm, during the two fol-

lowing months; the seeds come to maturity very nearly at the same time. The leaves and flowers possess both a powerful odour, which by some is considered very fragrant. The flowers have a much stronger smell than the leaves and stalks, and the small flowers composing the yellow disc in the centre of the flower are much more powerful than any other part of the plant. Chamomile flowers, if chewed, have a very bitter aromatic taste. Both the smell and taste are improved by drying the flowers, and they can scarcely be said to be injured by long keeping.

The botanical characters of the chamomile are the following:—The root is perennial, or existing for many years, and is fibrous and spreading; the stem is slender, procumbent, about eight inches in length, branched, furrowed, downy, and of a pale-green colour. The flowers are terminal, i.e. placed at the end or extremity of the stalk, solitary, having a yellow disc, and a white, spreading ray. The leaves are cut in such a manner as almost to resemble fibres. The seed is small and irregular in its shape.

The medicinal virtues of the chamomile are carminative or aromatic, and tonic. The former is dependent on an essential oil, which it contains in considerable quantity, and which is extracted by distilling the flowers with water. The tonic properties reside in an extractive matter.

Chamomile flowers yield their virtues readily, both to water and spirit. The latter solvent is but seldom employed, but the former is very commonly used, and with very great benefit in some forms of indigestion in which a tonic possessing aromatic qualities is required. A cup of chamomile-tea taken fasting, is an old but excellent remedy for improving the appetite. The infusion of the dry flowers, is much more agreeable than that of the fresh, and it is best made by simply pouring a pint of cold water upon half an ounce of the flowers, and allowing it to stand during the night; in the morning it may be strained off from the flowers, and the same quantity of water added for a fresh infusion. In addition to the use of these flowers in improving the appetite may be added another, by no means less serviceable, viz. that of relieving the morning sickness, which is so distressing during pregnancy.

Chamomiles are also of considerable service when taken in the form of a weak infusion in promoting the operation of emetic medicines. Applied hot, externally, after having been boiled with a proper proportion of water, they form the most excellent ingredient with which we are acquainted, for the purposes of fomentation. They are said to possess antiseptic qualities in addition to those of a discutient nature.

Two sorts of chamomile are imported and are found in the market. One of them is the common flower which we have described, and the other is the *double* flower of the same plant. As the florets of the disc are the most powerful part of the plant, of course that sample must be most excellent which contains the greatest of those yellow florets, and in this respect the single flowers have the advantage of the double ones. The double ones being much handsomer, are by some, however, preferred to the single flowers, for although deficient in intrinsic excellence, their general appearance secures a ready sale.

Dr. Schall states, that the chamomile is not only a remedy for nightmare, but also that it is the only one which can be depended on for the cure of that complaint; the powder we should consider the best form for its administration in that complaint, from ten grains to a scruple, may be taken three times a day.

SEIZURE OF A FRENCH QUACK MEDICINE.

The *Journal de Chemie Medicale*, for August last, contains the following report respecting some quack-medicine powders which were seized upon the premises of a vendor (a female) in the town of Metz, in France:—

"The powders were accompanied by a pamphlet, entitled 'A Treatise upon the Efficacy of the Powders of the Chevalier Godernaux, for purifying the Blood.' The intention of this pamphlet was to set forth the properties of these powders, which, it is asserted, will cure every description of disease. The value of this pamphlet may be estimated by the following passage, which is given *verbatim*:—'This remedy acts as an emetic when the disease is seated in the stomach, and is a purgative to those whose intestines are affected with humours.' The chemical analysis of these powders by M. Cheuvrenesse, professor of chemistry at Metz, was followed by the subjoined statement from that *savant*:—

"'These powders were found to be possessed of considerable tenuity, and had a beautiful white colour. They were folded in glazed paper, and formed into packages. Each package contained six powders. One of the powders, on being weighed, balanced thirteen grains. When one of them was placed upon the tongue, it gave a metallic taste. Different portions of the powders were placed upon porcelain capsules, and treated with reagents. With the alcoholic solution of potassa, the powder became black. The same appearance was also produced by hydro-sulphuric acid. The powder is insoluble in water, and likewise in alcohol. When thrown upon ignited charcoal it was volatilized, and gave out a white vapour, which had no smell. This vapour, as well as the powder itself, when received upon a plate of gold, gave that metal a white colour, and was unctuous to the touch. All these experiments appeared to show that the protochloride of mercury enters into the composition of these powders. When a certain portion of one powder was submitted to sublimation, protochloride of quicksilver was obtained. Finally, the researches which were made upon them showed—1st. That they were, generally speaking, uniform in character, and that, besides the protochloride, they contained a very small quantity of oxide of mercury, and also a small proportion of that semi-metal in a pure state. In addition to the above, they contained a notable portion of an oxide of antimony. 2ndly. That they caused accidents (*des accidens*). Amongst others, a woman at Metz, affected with an intermittent fever, was placed in a dangerous state by their use, upon which Dr. Fresto was called to attend her, when the powders being examined, and M. Marchand, the mayor, being informed of the dangerous effects caused by them in the city of Metz, ordered a

seizure to be made of all the powders which could be found, in different houses, in that city.'

"By the adoption of this summary and salutary measure, the trade in quack medicines would soon stop in any country in which pill or powder poisons were recommended to the people as "medicines which would cure all diseases."—*Lancet.*

CURIOUS CASE OF SPECTRAL ILLUSION.

HAPPENING on a very recent visit to the country to be in company with Mr. D., the phenomena of spectral illusions chanced to be mentioned: Mrs. D. took especial interest in the discussion, as she had experienced both illusions and local pain. She gave that pointed and clear account of both, which we should expect from a well-educated, intelligent, and candid woman. In her waking hours, this lady was literally tortured with horrid faces staring at her, and approaching close to her in every possible aggravation of horror. She was making a tedious recovery in child-bed when these symptoms troubled her. Besides the forms which were of natural colour, though often bloody, she was perplexed by their variation in size, from colossal to minute. Mrs. D. had also entire human figures, but they were always as minute as pins, or even pin-heads, and were in great confusion and numbers, indicating morbid action of order and number. Like Mr. John Hunter too, and the opium-eater, Mrs. D. had illusive perceptions in that function of weight which gives the perception of equilibrium a just relation to gravitation. She was dreadfully annoyed with the sensation of descending without the means of stopping. The opium-eater experienced falling, as if for millions of miles, and considered that illusion the most insupportable of the many ones which punished the insane debauchery of his pernicious habit. The only other illusion suffered by Mrs. D., was flashing light, showing, as in Miss S. L., over-excited colouring. The illusion did not, in her case, present entire spectres, recognisable as known in individuals; but, like some of Miss S. L.'s and the opium-eater's, were visitations of what the latter calls "the tyranny of the human face."

Mrs. D. then described the pain which accompanied her illusions, viz. acute pain in the upper part, or root of the nose, the seat of the organ of form, and all along the eyebrows, which takes an individuality, size, weight, colouring, order, and number.—*Phrenological Journal.*

ON THE PROBABILITY OF THE SUN BEING INHABITED.

BY DR. HERSCHELL.

[*From the Philosophical Transactions.*]

AMONG the celestial bodies the sun is certainly the first which should attract our notice. It is the fountain of light which illumines the earth! It is the cause of that heat which maintains the productive power of nature and makes a fit habitation for man! It is the central body of the planetary system; and what renders a knowledge of its nature more interesting to us, is, that the numberless stars which compose the universe appear, by the strictest analogy, to be similar bodies. Their innate light is so intense, that it reaches the eye of the observer from the remotest regions of space.

That our sun has an extensive atmosphere cannot be doubted; and that this atmosphere consists of various elastic fluids, that are more or less lucid and transparent, and of which the lucid one is that which furnishes us with light, seems also to be fully established by all the phenomena of its spots, of the faculæ, and of the lucid surface itself.*

There is no kind of variety in these appearances but what may be accounted for with the greatest facility from the continual agitation which we may easily conceive must take place in the regions of such extensive elastic fluids. It will be necessary, however, to be a little more particular as to the manner in which I suppose the lucid matter of the sun to be generated in its atmosphere. This lucid matter is neither liquid nor an elastic fluid, as is evident from its not filling up the cavities of the spots, and of the unevenness of the mottled parts. It exists, therefore, in the manner of lucid clouds, swimming in the transparent atmosphere of the sun; or rather of luminous decompositions taking place within that atmosphere. An analogy, drawn from the generation of clouds in our own atmosphere, seems a very proper one, and full of instruction. Our clouds are, probably, decompositions of some of the elastic fluids of the atmosphere itself, when such natural causes, as in this grand chemical laboratory are generally at work, act upon them; we may therefore admit that the same takes place in the very extensive atmosphere of the sun, from causes of the same nature; but with this difference, that the continual and very extensive decompositions of the elastic fluids of the sun are of a phosphoric nature, and attended with lucid appearances, by giving out light.

The exceeding subtilty of light is such, that in ages of time its emanations from the sun cannot very sensibly lessen the size of this great body. To this may be added, that, very possibly, there may be ways of restoration to compensate for what is lost by the emission of light; though the manner in which this can be brought about should not appear to us. Many of the operations of nature are carried on in her great laboratory which we cannot comprehend; but now and then we see some of the tools with which she is at work. We need not wonder that their construction should be so singular as to induce us to confess our ignorance of the method of employing them, but we may rest assured that they are not a mere *lusus naturæ*. I allude to the great number of small telescopic comets that have been observed; and to the far greater number that still are probably much too small for being noticed by our most diligent searchers after them. This throws a mystery over their destination, which seems to place them in the allegorical view of tools, probably designed for some salutary purposes to be wrought by them; and whether the restoration of what is lost to the sun by the emission of light, the possibility of which we have been mentioning above, may not be one of these purposes, I shall not attempt to determine. The motion of the comet discovered by Mr. Messier in June 1770, plainly showed how much its orbit was liable to be changed by the perturbations of the planets; from which, and the little agreement that can be found between the elements of the orbits of all the comets that have been observed, it appears clearly, that they may be directed to carry their salutary influence to any part of the heavens.

(*To be continued.*)

The force and fire of the imagination, and of the spirits, are apparent after much eating and drinking, and are weakened by abstinence.

* The following observations were made with an improved apparatus, and under the most favourable circumstances:—

The sun is mottled everywhere. The mottled appearance of the sun is owing to an inequality in the level of its surface. The sun is equally mottled at its poles and at its equator; but the mottled appearance may be seen better about the middle of the disc than towards the circumference, on account of the sun's spherical form.

The unevenness, arising from the elevation and depression of the mottled appearance on the surface of the sun, seems in many places to amount to as much, or to nearly as much, as the depression of *penumbræ* of the spots below the upper part of the shining substance, without including faculæ, which are protuberant.

REASONS GIVEN BY A CELEBRATED SURGEON FOR EMBRACING HIS PROFESSION.

Would you know, says the celebrated Guattani, how I was inspired with love for my profession and enthusiasm in study? I will relate the manner of it very willingly, for in truth certain accidents which struck my imagination in early life were the cause. First, A bailiff who had been shot with a pistol in the bend of the arm, was laid in the hospital of the Holy-Ghost; where for seven days his cure proceeded with every favourable sign; but, would you believe it? when I went on the morning of the eighth day to visit this man, the attendants met me, and told me he was dead! This unaccountable and sudden death led me to dissect the body. I found the side of the artery open, and the eschar, which the ball had produced, partly adhering, and partly separated; no bigger than a grain of corn: it was by the yielding of this eschar that he lost his life!

Almost on the same day, another, whose artery had been pricked in bleeding, died of the hemorrhage, without even an attempt to save his life! Another who had an aneurism in the ham had a caustic applied to it, the eschar fell off, and he bled to death! Another, again, had his aneurism with an actual cautery, and immediately expired through loss of blood! To these dismal scenes, which I myself have witnessed, what numbers might I not add from the consultations and writings of others!

The above is related by Sir C. Bell in his Clinical Lectures, and he then proceeds to detail the following circumstances, showing the absolute necessity of an acquaintance with the science of anatomy to any one who intends the practice of the medical profession, and also the advantage which a small degree of information on the subject confers on the possessor in enabling him to render assistance to a medical man in cases of emergency where (as in the following) the life of the sufferer depends in a great measure on the celerity with which assistance is rendered.

CASE OF SUICIDE.

Sir C. Bell says, I was coming home late at night, or rather when it was morning; the streets deserted, and the lamps seeming to shine for the exclusive enjoyment of watchmen and women of the town. What occurred to me might well have suggested the description given by Defoe of London in the time of the plague; when as he went through the street, he heard a woman calling from her window "Death! Death!" As I turned round into one of the squares, a window was suddenly raised, and a lady screamed out, "My husband has cut his throat and is bleeding to death—will nobody fetch a surgeon? You will allow it was singular that, at such a time there was a hospital surgeon passing beneath her window. I rushed into the house, but was admitted with some difficulty; the people of the house being alarmed, and naturally afraid of admitting improper characters. I made my way to the drawing-room, and here I was met with a new obstacle; for the lady when she saw me, and knew who I was, embraced me closely, beseeching my assistance, yet holding me so that I could not move. At last I threw her from me, and going into the bed-room, found her husband lying on his back, the blood streaming from his neck. I immediately caught hold of the vessel in the angle of the wound. After having secured it between my finger and thumb, I looked round for further assistance. Instead of finding my usual assistant, I was somewhat puzzled when I saw one who had on a large, shaggy white great-coat; an old hat with a broad brim upon his head and a red night-cap under it; a beard of a fortnight's growth, and a checkered shawl around his neck. "Sir," said he, "I am off my beat, I hope you will be able to answer for me why I have left it." I found it was the watchman who had followed me up-stairs, without my noticing him. I satisfied the old man that I would readily explain for him the occasion of his being off his beat. I was obliged to wait for some time holding the bleeding vessels between my fingers until some medical assistance arrived with ligatures and needles. I was much relieved when an old house-surgeon of this hospital (Middlesex), Mr. Tuson, made his appearance with proper apparatus; and to him I resigned the care of the patient. The arteries were tied; and the wound was then properly sewed and done up.

INTEMPERANCE.

(*Concluded from p.* 284.)

Men who, from an equivocal felicity of constitution, are prevented, for a long time, from killing themselves by their excesses, are often the indirect means of destroying many of their fellow-creatures. Such persons are referred to as living arguments, much stronger than any inanimate logic to the contrary, of the innoxious nature of intemperance. In their countenances we may sometimes read the indications of almost invulnerable health; it would be well if also were inscribed there, in characters equally legible, the catalogue of convivial companions who have fallen victims to their treacherous example.

The unfortunate Burns at one time complained that those with whom he associated were not satisfied with his conversation, luxurious as it must have been, unless he gave them also a slice of his constitution. He must be condemned as unwisely lavish, who cuts up his vital principle for the entertainment of his friends: on the other hand, a person may be thought by some too grudgingly parsimonious of his fund of health, who would not lay out a little of it upon extraordinary occasions, in solemnizing, according to the usual form, the rites of hospitality, in heightening the warmth of sympathy, or in promoting the vivacity of convivial intercourse. But that man's heart, it must be acknowledged, is of little value, which will not beat full and strong upon an empty stomach. An after-dinner kind of friendship, the expression of which acquires new ardour at every fresh filling of the glass, must be expected to evaporate with the fumes of the liquor which inspired it. The tide of liberal sentiment retires, in such cases, as soon as the animal spirits begin to ebb. The heat produced by alcohol ought not to be mistaken for the glow of virtue. He whose pitch of generosity or goodness is regulated by the state of his circulation, is entitled to little confidence or respect, in any of the important connections or social intercourses of life. The steadiness of a sober and substantial benevolence is to be compared, only by way of contrast, to the precarious vicissitudes of that person's temper, with whom kindness is not a healthy habit, but a feverish paroxysm; and who, although constitutionally, or in the ordinary course of his life, sensual or selfish, may be occasionally wrought up by factitious means, to the elevation of a jovial and fugitive philanthropy.

In connection with the subject of intemperance, it may be proper to remark, that there are cases in which extraordinary stimuli may be useful in deducting from the operation of causes still more injurious or more rapidly fatal in their effects. When bodily pain, for instance, has risen to a certain point, wine, brandy, or laudanum, although they should always with caution, may sometimes with propriety, be applied, as by affording temporary relief they spare, for a time at least, the wear and tear that is produced by too acute and violent sensations. Such a seasonable use of them may be estimated, upon the whole, as a saving to the constitution. It is likewise a doctrine of some importance, and which ought to be acted

upon by the medical practitioner, that whenever a patient expresses a violent appetite, which, from his never having been known to experience it before, appears to have been created by his disease, it ought in general to be regarded as indicating what is subservient to its cure. As, in the lower animals, which are constitutionally deficient in reason, instinct supplies its place, so, during the period that the mental power in man is in some measure impaired by bodily disorder, nature often provides him also with a temporary instinct, which is still more sure in its dictates than the reasoning faculty.

To some hypochondriacs we ought not to proscribe the moderate use of wine, as by so doing, we may be in danger of excluding them altogether from the enjoyment of that social intercourse, which is the only medicine of a life that may, under certain circumstances, be regarded as a long disease. Those who have lived in the habit of taking two or three glasses of wine after dinner, and who have seldom exceeded that quantity, it would be an act of almost gratuitous cruelty to deprive of so scanty an indulgence.

There are persons who carry the doctrine of abstinence to an absurd and even ridiculous extent. Such are they who tell us to abstain not from wine only, but even from water, unless it be purified by an artificial process. The spring which issues from the bowels of the earth needs not the chemist's art to render it salubrious. The laboratory of nature requires for such a purpose no aid from the laboratory of man.

We ought not to dismiss the subject of the present essay without remarking, that the best way of attempting to conquer in another the vice of intemperance, especially when it has been induced, as is very frequently the case, by some permanent or weighty cause of sorrow, is to picture to the mind of the patient the agreeable change in his situation, which would be likely to arise from an alteration in his mode of life, rather than to present to him those deeper shades of misery which must successively ensue from the continuance of his ignominious servitude, and habits of fatal, although joyless indulgence. The latter, though the more common mode of endeavouring to effect the reformation of an unfortunate inebriate, is in general calculated only to confirm and aggravate the evil, by sinking his spirits still lower, and, in some instances, perhaps converting the languor of dejection into the mental palsy of despair. Nothing acts as so powerful a sedative upon virtuous efforts as the consciousness of the loss of reputation; and no circumstance is so directly calculated to rob a man of his good name, as a habit of intemperance. It is a very difficult task, in such cases, to get the stain of wine out of the character; but it is not quite so impossible as to change the spots in the leopard's skin. We ought never to think that the day of grace is past, or that, however desperate our circumstances, we are out of the pale of possible salvation. It is a condition scarcely distinguishable from despair, which can alone account for the obstinacy with which many an intemperate person deliberately pursues his disastrous course. Bent almost to the earth under the burden of his regrets, he is unable to look up so as to contemplate the brighter prospect which may at length open upon his path. In his mind, the heavy foot of calamity has trampled out every spark of hope. He feels as if he could scarcely be in a more wretched, or is ever likely to be in a better condition. The exaggerated dimensions of his present misery so completely fill his eye, as to prevent him from seeing anything beyond it. He is habitually in a state of agitation, or despondency, similar to that in which suicide is committed. His is only a more dilatory and dastardly mode of self-destruction. He may be compared to a person who in attempting to cut his throat, from a want of sufficient courage or decision, lacerates it for some time, before he accomplishes his purpose. The intemperate man instead of forgetting himself, as he is said to do, is in general the most selfish of mortals; but sympathy, when not altogether eradicated by this destructive habit, will often give a chance of rescue from its dominion. I have known a man who, a long-continued course of excess not having rendered him callous to conjugal tenderness, was thus enabled at once to break the spell. The wretchedness to which he might otherwise have submitted as his inevitable doom, he could no longer bear to see reflected on the countenance of his dearest friend. The apparently inseparable community of their fate produced an alteration in his conduct, which would not in all probability have been effected by the prospect of his individual and insulated ruin.

PROSPERITY OFTEN A SOURCE OF INEBRIETY.

The meaning of the word stimulus is in general confined to fermented liquors, or to drugs. But it may, in a more comprehensive and philosophical sense, be made to include not only what acts immediately upon the stomach, but likewise a vast variety of moral causes which operate more directly upon the passions or imagination. A man may be intoxicated by good news as well as by brandy. In this way prosperity not unfrequently proves as unwholesome as intemperance. Many have thus fallen the victims of what has been considered their good fortune. A sudden accession of opulence or honour will often obscure the faculties as much as the fumes of drunkenness. A sudden gush of happiness has been known to occasion immediate death, and in other instances has given rise to what is incalculably worse, paroxysms which have terminated in incurable insanity. In the celebrated South Sea speculation, it was remarked, that few lost their reason in consequence of the loss of their property, but that many were stimulated to madness by the too abrupt accumulation of enormous wealth. In other lotteries, as well as in the general lottery of life, dreadful effects have perhaps more frequently arisen from the prizes than the blanks. It has often happened that an adventurer, in addition to the original price of his ticket, has paid for his chance-gotten wealth by a forfeiture of his reason. The same turn of the wheel which has raised him into affluence has sunk him also into idiocy, or by no advantageous change, has transformed the mendicant into the maniac.

Adversity, that "tamer of the human breast," acts, on the other hand, as a salutary sedative upon the irritability of our frame, and may thus not only secure the subjugation of our passions and protect the sanity of our intellect, but also in some instances may tend to protract life, almost in proportion as it deducts from the vivacity of its enjoyment.—*Reid's Essays.*

The venous circulation in man is effected by the pressure of the dilated arteries against the cranium in the head, the respiratory pressure in the thorax and abdomen, the pressure of the dilated arteries against the surrounding dense bodies, as the bones, muscles, cartilages, &c., and the atmosphere on the surface of the body.

There is no animal whose cranial bones unite so tardily as those of man; whose teeth are so slowly unbudded from the gums; that takes more time to be able to sustain itself on its feet; lastly, that arrives so slowly at puberty and its perfect growth: there is none of the mammiferæ, in comparison to the volume of the body, that enjoys life so long as man.

ON THE COMBINATION OF MEDICINES IN PRESCRIBING.

(*Continued from p.* 285.)

There are two errors, or, as Lord Bacon calls them, idols of the mind, which are equally pernicious to science, especially to such a science as medicine, which has not, and perhaps never can be, established upon absolute and certain experience. The one is, an unbounded belief in the precepts laid down by those who have gone before us in medicine; some practitioners supposing, that the observations of our ancestors have been founded upon unquestionable experience. The other is, a total doubt and disbelief of everything that has been advanced by those before us; hence proceeds, with regard to the powers of medicine in disease, a wish in every young practitioner to depend upon his own experience alone. Both these errors are to be avoided; for if a man is to trust entirely to what has been laid down by authors who have gone before him, it becomes necessary, that he should be a perfect judge of the merits of the works of those authors. On the other hand, it is impossible for the experience of any one man, however well he may be acquainted with every science, to make any great progress in medicine.

These things being premised, I wish to point out what classes of medicines admit of mixture, when they have all a tendency to produce the same effect; and, in the second place, what classes of medicines, having different properties, may be mixed together so as to produce good effects. The first of these propositions will form the subject of what follows.

In the first place, although it has been much the practice to mix medicines together which have been said to have a demulcent quality, by which has been always meant the capability of preventing stimulants from acting upon parts which they would otherwise stimulate without producing any chemical change in them; such as farinaceous matter, as it is found in the flour of wheat and in the other seeds of the gramina, in the pith of plants, as of the palm tree, and in gum tragacanth, and as sugar, gum arabic, and other gums not coagulable by heat, matter found in the roots of the orchises, and other plants of that natural class, as saloop, &c.; yet I have not found any advantage gained by mixing these together, excepting from mere convenience of application. With the same intention some animal substances have been made use of, such as ichthyocolla, which is the sound of sturgeon, the sounds of many other fishes, together with jellies formed from the cartilages of many other animals, or solutions of any part of an animal which is without taste or smell. I have never found any advantage from a mixture of these for the purposes above mentioned, excepting merely from convenience of application. For instance, in a catarrh the thin mucus secreted by the glands in the mouth, throat, and larynx, stimulates the mucous membrane, so as to produce a greater degree of inflammation than would otherwise take place. If sugar be employed alone, in the form of what is called a lozenge, it dissolves quickly, and does not remain for a sufficient time to defend the membrane. If farinaceous matter be employed alone, it does not dissolve in the water of the saliva, and therefore passes down into the stomach without being of any use. The same thing is to be said of gum as of sugar, though the solution does not take place quite so regularly. Ichthyocolla, and other such substances dissolved in water, so as to form a gelatinous matter, have a degree of softness, which prevents any sharp point from stimulating the mucous membrane. The mixture therefore of farinaceous matter, sugar, gum, and ichthyocolla, makes a better lozenge for defending the mucous membrane of the mouth, pharynx, and larynx, from the stimulus of the thin matter of the mucus, than any one of them does taken by itself. The farinaceous matter prevents the sugar and the gum from being so soon dissolved; the viscidity of the sugar and gum prevents the farinaceous matter from being swallowed so soon as it would otherwise be; and the ichthyocolla gives a softness to the whole, which prevents any sharp points from stimulating the membrane. A lozenge therefore of these, or similar substances, will be better than one formed of any one of them taken by itself; and so of these substances in other cases.

Bitter medicines, which tend to strengthen the system, such as the bark of the cinchona, several species of the artemisia of Linnæus (who, it may be observed, has constantly endeavoured to mislead students in medicine, by taking the name of the genus from the species which has the least effect, or a dissimilar effect, from the greatest number of the species in it), as absinthium, absinthium maritimum, &c.. which have been more commonly used, and have effects different from artemisia: several species of carduus, chamomile, the rinds of fruits of the orange kind; the gentians, and many others, as far as my observation has gone, sit easier on the stomach, and tend more to strengthen the system when mixed together, than when any one of them is employed singly. Whether the bitter juice contained in all these plants is the same substance, as the sugar and indigo contained in many plants are the same, or whether it be, that the essential oils in these various plants containing a bitter juice are different, certain it is, that they tend to strengthen the system more when mixed together, than when any one of them is employed singly. Preparations of iron, given in small doses, tend to strengthen the system, and were very often employed for this purpose before the cinchona came into use. Since that time they have been less in practice, though certainly rather from the fashion of medicine, than that they are not useful; but there is a degree of stimulus in all of them, which renders them too apt to occasion frequency of the pulse, and therefore, as far as I can judge, it is better to give them at the same time with such bitter medicines as are strengthening, though they will not well bear to be mixed with them, as they tend to coagulate and destroy the bitter juice of the vegetable. The bark of the cinchona, as well as other bitter juices of vegetables of a similar kind, likewise preparations of iron, zinc, copper, and tin, have a power of preventing many applications made to the body from exerting so considerable an affect as they otherwise would have done if these medicines had not been exhibited; which effect is one among others that has been expressed by saying, that they diminish the irritability of the body. I have not observed, that a mixture of any two of these medicines is of any use in producing this effect: for example, the bark of the cinchona has a power of preventing the cause of the return of an intermitting fever from reproducing the disease; but I have never observed, that mixing preparations of zinc, iron, or copper, or any bitter, increased the power of the bark of the cinchona, or that the bark of the cinchona increased the power of any of these medicines in preventing the return of an intermitting fever.

Many astringent medicines are found in vegetables. There is some doubt whether it is not the same astringent juice which is found in all of them, as most of them are coagulable by many metallic and aluminous salts, Be this as it may, the mixture of several different vegetable astringent substances, as far as my experience goes, seems to be much better than giving one of them singly, whether it be to check secretions (as purgings) in cases where it is proper to employ astringents for that purpose, or in hemorrhage, in cases where astringents may be employed for the purpose of stopping them. It is better, for example, to employ tormentil, madder, simarouba, logwood, together, to stop a purging that arises from weakness and laxity of the intestines, than to employ any one of them by itself. In a hemorrhage, where a disposition to in-

flammation, and a flow of blood upon the part have been taken off, or when neither exists in the first part of the disease, it is better to join the astringency of the petals of red roses, to that of vitriolic acid and alum, than to employ any of these astringents singly.

(*To be continued.*)

GLUTTONY.

A DECENT, well-furnished, and hospitable table, is very commendable in the nobility and wealthy gentry that can afford it; it speaks the greatness of their minds, the goodness of their natures, and gains the blessing of the poor and needy, where they are charitably allowed to come in for their share; but, when feasting runs into excessive luxury, and vain expense, it reproaches the author of it with prodigality and folly; for no money can be so truly said to be thrown away as that which is superfluously spent upon the belly. In this kind of excess, the ancient Romans were so infamously remarkable, that it is said, "Their sensuality despoiled the remainder of their former virtues;" and yet we find their examples were thought worthy the imitation of succeeding ages; of which I shall give you but a few of many instances, lest I should teach what I design to decry.

George Nevil, brother to the great Earl of Warwick, at his installation into the Archbishopric of York, 1470, made such an excessive feast, that it is a wonder how his caterers could think of such great varieties, or where to provide them. Here follows an account of his bill of fare: Three hundred quarters of wheat, three hundred and thirty tons of ale, one hundred and four tons of wine, one pipe of spiced wine, eighty fat oxen, six wild bulls, one thousand and four weathers, three hundred hogs, three hundred calves, three thousand geese, three thousand capons, three hundred pigs, one hundred peacocks, two hundred cranes, two hundred kids, two thousand chickens, four thousand pigeons, four thousand rabbits, two hundred and four bittours, four thousand ducks, four hundred hersews, two hundred pheasants, five hundred partridges, four thousand woodcocks, four hundred plovers, one hundred curlews, one hundred quails, one thousand egrets, two hundred rees, above four hundred bucks, does, and roebucks, one thousand five hundred and six venison pasties, four hundred cold venison pasties, one thousand four hundred dishes of jelly parted, four thousand dishes of plain jelly, four thousand cold custards, two thousand hot custards, three hundred pikes, three hundred breams, eight seals, four porpoises, and four hundred tarts. The Earl of Warwick was steward at this prodigious feast, the Earl of Bedford treasurer, the Lord Hastings comptroller, with many other noble officers; serviters, one thousand; cooks, sixty-two; servants in the kitchen, five hundred and fifteen. But see what this prodigal bishop came to at last. King Edward IV., the then reigning prince, seized his whole estate, sent him prisoner to Calais in France, where he suffered extreme poverty, as a punishment of his former vanity and excess.—*Full. Ch. Hist.* l. 4. cent. 15. p. 193.

Heliogabalus kept such a prodigal and expensive table, that, at one supper, were sent in the heads of six hundred estridges, only for eating their brains. When he was near the sea he never ate fish; and, when he was at a great distance from it, he would eat nothing else. He hated what was cheap, and easy to be had, and loved only what was scarce and dear, and the debauchery and irregularity of his appetite outstripped all the inventions that could be contrived to satisfy it.—*Lamprid. Hackw. Apol.* l. 4. p. 382.

C. Caligula was master of a very great revenue, and had as many ways to consume it; one of which was voluptuous eating and drinking. He would dissolve the best orient pearls in vinegar and drink them off; and was mightily troubled that he could not spend the whole revenue of all the Roman provinces at one supper.—*Plin. Nat. Hist.* l. 9. p. 257.

Pliny also reports of Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt, that, to outdo Mark Antony's costly treats that he bestowed upon her, she drank off, after a sumptuous entertainment, two of the richest pearls that were known in the world, which were valued at a hundred thousand sesterces.—*Fulgos.* ex. l. 9. p. 1137.

CAUSES OF DISEASE OF THE HEART.

As the heart has a tendency to grow, from diseases which render it liable to congestion, so has violent exercise, which increases the quantity of blood passing through its cavities, a tendency to promote that growth. This is seen in our labourers, in whom heart diseases are frequent. The increase of the arms and legs, in cases of plethoric palpitation, will throw too much blood upon the heart; but not only does muscular exercise, which returns the blood with more than usual momentum, excite excessive action on that important organ, but mental irritation, long exposure to heat, the indulgence of the passions, the causes of fever, and various causes acting on the alimentary canal, as stimulating food, accumulations of feces, flatus, and other powers, by a mode of operation which is inexplicable, cause unusual fulness and impulse of blood upon the heart. Lying long in bed, thin-clad legs and feet, and brooding over the disorder, are equally hurtful.

REMEDY FOR SCALDED THROAT.

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Lancet* says, "A person of the name of Willing requested that I would immediately visit her son, who had drunk boiling water from the spout of a tea-kettle. I did not know for a moment what could be adopted to mitigate the sufferings of this poor child, until, recollecting the recoveries I had witnessed by the administration of calomel in croup, I was prompted to try it on this occasion, when, as soon as the mouth became affected, I had the gratification of seeing my little patient begin to recover, and in two or three days it was at its usual gambols."

Reason is the sensation of observing the difference between objects, the effects of circumstances, the cause of effects; experience extends its capacity, and it requires the operation of the two first classes of sensations, as well as the perfection of memory, association, attention, and imagination.

ANSWERS TO INVALIDS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

"*A Sufferer.*" The case is but imperfectly stated, but we think it is one which will soon yield to proper treatment. Two of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* should be taken every other night for a week, after that time if he will call at the Office in the Broadway, and ask for a Mixture No. 1, he will receive a medicine which will remove the complaint. The Mixture should be continued for a short time after the symptoms have ceased, in order to ensure a perfect recovery.

"*A Reduced Tradesman*" still indulges too much in the pleasures which have brought on his present state of disease. He must try the effect of the Mixture last prescribed, but if its use is not attended with some remission of his symptoms after continuing it a short time, we should recommend him to call at the Broadway, which would be much more satisfactory.

"*J. Taylor, Junr.*" It will be impossible to determine the precise nature of his disease unless we have the advantage of an interview with him. The case appears not only complicated, but distressing, if not indeed dangerous, and its cause ought no longer to remain uninvestigated. We must recommend him to call at the Broadway as early as may be convenient.

"*T. P. Rochester.*" The following medicine will effectually remove it:—℞ Magnes. Sulph. ʒvj. Inf. Gent. Co. ʒv. Tr. Card. Co. ʒiv. Syr. Aurantii ʒiv. M. ft. mist. cujus sumat cochl. duo ampla bis die. Write again.

"W. O. Drysalter." We should recommend him to take his prescriptions to a *respectable* shop, where he would certainly be treated in a different manner. Perhaps he can select one from the list of agents in our last page. The best plan is to copy it out on paper. Care shall be taken that an article on the subject he mentions shall be shortly inserted.

"Pelham." Lisbon, we should say, was decidedly preferable. The climate of the other place must be less adapted to the state of his health than even our own, which is bad enough to invalids suffering from affections of the lungs. We could not recommend any medicine which would answer the purpose so well as *The Doctor's Pectoral* and *Stomach Pills*.

"Bidens." The following mixture will be found very serviceable:—℞ Potassæ Carbon. ʒj. Inf. Gentian. Co. ℥vss. Tr. Lavand. ʒiv. M. ft. mist. cujus sumat coch. duo ampla ter die. Write again.

"E. Kent." With the exception of the postscript we feel obliged to give the same answer to this correspondent that we did to the last. It is impossible to communicate what we should wish in the small compass allotted for these answers. With regard to the postscript we can answer in the affirmative; it is beneficial, and the contrary is injurious.

"W. C., a Reader." The cause of the recurrence of the complaint so repeatedly is, that the medicine has been left off too early. We should recommend the following mixture:—℞ Bals. Copaibæ ʒiij. Pulv. Tragacanthæ Co. ʒij. Aq. Cinnam. ℥vss. M. ft. emulsio, sumat cochl. duo ampla ter die. One of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* should be taken every night in order to regulate the bowels, which is of the first importance. Write again.

"W. W. O." Call at the Broadway on Friday evening.

"? ?" The subject is of such a nature that we cannot be sufficiently explicit in this place to render our Correspondent any service. We will forward a private letter to any place he may please to appoint on the receipt of the usual fee, or if he prefers it, will leave one with the Publisher at the Office in the Broadway, to be called for.

"No Doctor." It would be impossible to treat this case satisfactorily without seeing the individual. The nature of the eruption cannot otherwise be determined, and we have doubts whether it has anything to do with the cause to which it is ascribed. From what we can learn we should be inclined to have a favourable opinion of the case, but still are in the dark with regard to many essential points. If this correspondent will call, he shall receive every attention.

"Shepherdess." We are sorry to find that any one could have behaved in so mercenary a manner. The following medicine will do her more good than all that which either he or any other quack could recommend to her. ℞ Mist Ferri. Co. ℥xij. Sumat cochl. duo ampla ter die. ℞ Pil. Aloes c. Myrrh. ʒj. Divide in pil. xij. Sumat ij altern. nocte.

"Agrippa." The recumbent posture should be kept strictly, and the apartment well ventilated. The only medicine necessary will be *one* of *The Doctor's Stomach Pills* every night. If not improved in the course of the week, a prescription for some medicine shall be given which shall effectually stop it. The following medicine will be of great service to "daughter." ℞ Mist. Ferri Co. ℥xij. Sumat cochl. iij ampla ter die; two (or three if necessary) of the *Stomach Pills* should be taken every other night.

"A Friend" will receive a letter by Post.

Letters.—All Letters received by the Editor up to six o'clock on Monday evening, will be answered in The Doctor bearing date the next Wednesday; and which may be had at the office, and of all Booksellers, on Tuesday afternoon. The cases of all Correspondents receive the Editor's most attentive consideration, and no fee is necessary except where a private letter is desired.

Consultations.—The Editor of *The Doctor* may be personally consulted every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY Evening, from 5 till 8 o'clock, at 4, Broadway, Ludgate-Hill, near Apothecaries' Hall. Fee 2s. 6d.

*** Those patients who consult the Editor at his Chambers more than once, are requested to bring with them at least *the last* prescription, to prevent the necessity of commencing *de novo*, the investigation of their cases.

Agencies.—Town and Country Druggists, Booksellers, &c., who may be desirous to become Agents for the sale of *The Doctor's Medicines*, are requested to address their applications to *The Proprietors of The Doctor*, 4, Broadway, Ludgate-Hill, giving a reference to some respectable house, and a full description of their respective residences, so that bills may be printed for local circulation, and forwarded with the medicine.

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